

READING ACTIVITY

READING MAGAZINES (skimming*)

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- Objective** : Enabling readers to read fast employing strategy such as skimming.
Participation : Individual
Material : Any magazine (weekly, biweekly, fortnightly, monthly such as The Week, Frontline, India Today, Outlook, Business India...so on published in India)
Preparation : Attempting to read any article in a magazine as quickly as possible to get a general idea of it, ignoring the details.

Procedure :

- Choose a magazine of your interest, (e.g. India Today*), and look at the number of pages and the articles it carries in an issue.
Most adult readers spend only about 30 minutes, either at one go or at different points in time. Within that time limit it is not humanly possible to read the entire magazine in detail. Yet, to get a sense of reading the whole magazine, seasoned readers resort to the technique of skimming.
- Skimming generally follows the steps mentioned below: (as fast as possible)
 - Reading the title of an article,
 - Reading the first paragraph completely and continuing to read only the first sentence of each paragraph and ending with reading the entire last paragraph,
 - Reading the boxed items, highlighted parts, headings and sub-headings, and
 - Looking at the pictures, tables, graphs, if any.
- After skimming an article, read the same article again as one would normally do to check whether one has got all the significant details. If yes, one has the ability to skim and if not, one has to keep practicing this technique till acquiring it.
Skimming can usually be accomplished at about 1000 words per minute (WPM) and it is about 3 to 4 times faster than the normal reading speed.
- Move on to the next article you intend to read and follow the skimming technique. If you got all the important details and a sense of having gone through the entire article, keep resorting to the same method of reading to cover the whole magazine.

Learning outcomes:

- 1) Learners realize that most of the articles in a magazine can be read only by skimming and not by reading word-by-word due to lack of time.
- 2) Learners recognize that they can acquire this reading strategy only by employing it as frequently as possible.

Further activity: One should consciously adopt this strategy not only for reading magazines but also for other texts depending on the purpose of their reading.

***Skimming:** It is an effective reading strategy employed when one is faced with reading lots of materials in a limited time. Skimming is reading to get a general idea of a text, ignoring the details.

***India Today** is the largest selling English magazine in India with a circulation of more than 1 million copies. A weekly of 66 pages, costing Rs 40/- carries about 10 features, each running into about 3/4 pages with big colour pictures spanning about 4 columns and other highlights. Each feature is about 1000 to 1500 words. It also has its regular features such as the editorial on the first page, contents page, mail, upfront, glass house and advertisements. Besides, it carries excerpts from books, book reviews, glossary and eye catchers to cater to diverse interests of readers.

To read the entire magazine one would require about 150 minutes, keeping 250 WPM as the normal reading speed. But, on an average as a reader spends about 30 minutes only skimming can give a sense having gone through the entire magazine.